

2/22/04

Revelation 4

We come to the third major division of the book, the things which will take place after. Rev. 1:19.

This third and final major division runs from chapter four to the end with it corresponding visions.

* The first division of this third major division goes from chapter four to chapter eight, verse one.

Chapter four and five are one vision in two parts.

1. Chapter 4 we see the awesomeness of God's throne and worshipped as Creator.

* The word throne appears twelve times!

2. Chapter 5 we see the awesomeness of God's love and worshipped as Redeemer.

* The word throne appears five times!

4:1-2 The translation to God's throne in heaven.

4:1-2 The attention of John is captured.

1) The time of the event is declared to be, "After what things".

a) John has just finished the messages to the seven churches.

b) Indicative of the close of the church age.

c) The phrase "after these things" is "meta tauta", as the third division points out. Rev. 1:19

2) The apostle John looked and saw a door open in heaven.

a) A door is often representing opportunity, access or entry.

1)) Door of invitation. Rev. 3:20

2)) Door of translation. Rev. 4:1

3)) Door of dissension. Rev. 19:11

* Ezekiel experienced the same thing. Ezk. 1:1

b) The scene is heaven.

1)) The church is translated to heaven and is no longer found on earth.

2)) The word "church" is not found after Chapter three until the last chapter. Rev. 22:1

3)) The promise was to keep her from the hour of trial. Rev. 3:10

3) John heard a voice like a trumpet saying, "Come up here".

a) The phrase is a simile, not a literal and clearly understood.

b) John identifies the voice for us, it is the same one in chapter one, Jesus. Rev. 1:10

c) The message was, "I will show you things which must take place after this."

- 1)) What things which must take place after this.
- 2)) The tribulation and Great Tribulation. Mat.24; Mk.13; Lk.21
- c) The phrase, "Come up here" reminds us of the call that is promised to the church. 1Thes. 4:16-17
- 4) Immediately John was in the Spirit, he was transport to heaven by the Spirit. vs. 2
 - a) This is repeated. Rev. 1:10; 17:3
 - b) Paul was caught up to the third heaven where God dwells, he did not know weather he was in the body or out of his body. 2Cor. 12

4:3-4 The vision of the throne of God in heaven.

4:3 There John saw a throne set in heaven. vs. 3

- 1) He was like a jasper, clear crystal, believed to be a diamond, purity and holiness. Rev. 21:11
 - * Jasper was the last stone on priest's breastplate.
- 2) He was like sardius stone in appearance, majestic reddish color.
 - * Sardis was the first stone on priest's breastplate. Ex. 28:20
- 3) There was a rainbow all the way around the throne, in appearance like an emerald,

green, the covenant God who is faithful judges. Gen. 9:13

* The entire description is not so much for us to think we are exact in our interpretation of these elements but merely that the proper response to the throne of God should be awe and admiration of his transcendent glory!

- a) Ancient of Days. Dan. 7:9
- b) No man can see God and live, He dwells in an unapproachable light. 1Tim.6:16

* All things were to be made according to the pattern on the mount, for it was a picture of heaven. Ex. 25:40; Heb. 8:5; 9:23

- 4) He saw One sat on the throne, appearing twelve time in this chapter.
 - a) The vision of the throne is related and connected to all that will happen on the earth, as the seals, trumpets and bowls are brought forth on the earth.
 - b) God is in control, this is His wrath and judgment on a ungodly and Christ rejecting world.
 - c) The Greek does not give us number "One" but only presence.

4:4 There was a company around the throne. vs. 4

- 1) The vision of the throne is connected to the first vision of the glorified Christ to bring sin to an end and establish the Kingdom.
- 2) Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting.
 - a) There are about thirteen different views as to who they are, from angels, to combinations of Old and New Testament saints, twelve patriarchs and twelve apostles, even representatives of the twenty-four divisions of the priesthood. 1Chron. 24
 - b) The next chapter identifies them for us, they can only be the representatives of the church. Rev. 5:9-10
 - c) They are clothed in white robes, speaking of Jesus' righteousness Rev. 19:8
 - * There are others identified with white robes but they are on earth, the martyrs who come out of the great tribulation believing in Jesus. Rev. 7:13
- 3) They had crowns of gold on their heads.
 - * "Stephanos" the victors crown awarded at the games. 1Cor. 9:25

4:5-7 The Divine and angelic presence before the throne.

4:5 The authority of the throne.

- 1) And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. vs. 5a-c
 - a) God's judgment direct from His throne, an fearful and awesome thing, unimaginable and, this is not man reaping out of natural sowing Ex.19:16; Heb. 12:21
 - b) It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Heb. 10:31
 - c) This is mentioned four times symbolic of God's presence and vindication. Rev. 4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18
- 2) Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. vs. 5d-e
 - a) The seven-fold work of the Holy Spirit. Is. 11:2; Rev. 3:1; 4:5
 - b) Possibly indicating the judgment to come.

4:6-7 The guardianship of the throne.

- 1) Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. vs. 6a-b
 - a) Laver in O.T. tabernacle and Solomon temple, all were a pattern of things in heaven.

- b) Water, purity, separation. Eph. 5:26
- 2) And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. vs. 6c-e
- a) There are cherubim, the first time Cherubim appear is in the Garden of Eden, to guard the tree of life. Gen. 3:24
- 1)) The singular is Cherub and the plural form is Cherubim.
- 2)) The Cherubim also appeared on the top of the Mercy seat of the ark of the covenant, guarding God's throne. Ex. 25:19-20, 22
- 3)) Cherubim were placed on the curtain of the Tabernacle. Ex. 26:1
- 4)) Cherubim were also found on the veil of the Tabernacle to divide the Holy place from the Holy of Holies. Ex. 26:31
- 5)) Cherubim were placed in the Temple of Solomon after the pattern given to him. The two wing Cherub are seen in the Tabernacle Mercy Seat. Ex. 25:19, 1Kings 6:24
- 6)) Cherubim also have four wings and are described in the vision of Ezekiel.

- a)) Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. Ezk. 1:5-6
* Having the face of a lion, man, ox and eagle!
- b)) Thus were their faces. Their wings stretched upward; two wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies. Ezk. 1:11, 23
- c)) This is the living creature I saw under the God of Israel by the River Chebar, and I knew they were cherubim. Ezk. 10:20
- 7)) Lucifer is called a Cherub. Ezk. 28:14
* "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones."
- c) Seraphims fly over head having six wings, the term means, "the burning ones". vs. 8, Is. 6
- d) Full of eyes in front and in back, indicative of intelligence, alertness and knowledge.

- 3) The four images are believed to represent the four gospels? Vs. 7
 * Ezk. 1:5-10; 10:14
- a) The lion represents the gospel of Matthew, Jesus as king.
 - b) The calf or ox represents the gospel of Mark, Jesus as servant.
 - c) The face of a man, represents the gospel of Luke, Jesus as Son of Man.
 - d) The eagle represents the gospel of John, Jesus as Son of God.
 * Only one is referred to the face, the other three the entire form is depicted as the simile.

4:8-11 The activity of the heavenly company before the throne in heaven.

4:8 The four living creatures worship God constantly. vs. 8

- 1) They have six wings and they are full of eyes, Seraphim are an order of angels that have six wings. Is. 6:2
 - a) With two they cover their face, from the Shekiniah glory of God.
 - b) With two they cover their feet, recognizing the holy ground.
 - c) With two they fly.
 - d) Again with the “im” ending in the Hebrew, it makes it a plural form

Seraphim, the singular would be Seraph and Cherub!

- e) Their name means “burning ones”
- 2) Isaiah heard and saw with clear understanding their worship of God. Is. 6:3-4
 * “And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.”
 - a) The Seraphim seem to be related to the worship of God and His holiness, repeated three times.
 - b) Throughout the Scriptures we read holy, holy, holy, never twice, four or five times.
 - c) The pattern without any doubt is related to the Trinity in heaven!
- 3) The Seraphim declared that the entire earth is full of His glory.
 * The vision seen by the prophet of God and the angelic host is interpreted for us by John the beloved, John tells us that Isaiah saw Jesus, quoting verse nine. Jn. 12:41
 - a) The vision consecrated Isaiah’s life. vs. 6

- b) The mediator used to purify Isaiah's unclean lips was a Seraph who dwelt in the presence of the Holy God.
- c) The seraph flew and took a live coal with tongs from the altar of God in heaven.
 - 1)) The Tabernacle was a pattern of the throne of God in heaven.
 - 2)) The incense alter, stood before the veil of the Holy of Holies. Ex. 30:7
 - 3)) John saw that it represented the prayers of the saints. Rev. 5:8
- 4) They do not rest day or night saying Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" vs. 8d-j
 - a) Holy, he is separate from sinners.
 - b) Almighty, all powerful.
 - c) Who was, is and is to come, all present, knowing and eternal. Rev. 1.8

4:9-10 The theme of heaven is the worship of Jesus.

- 1) The living creatures are the initiators of worship. vs. 9
 - a) The living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne.
 - b) He who lives forever and ever,
- 2) The twenty-four elders follow their worship. vs. 10

- a) The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever.
- b) And cast their crowns before the throne in gratitude and adoration.
 - * Four times the elders fall down and worshipped. Rev. 4:10; 5:8, 14; 19:4
- 3) The elder worship God for being the Creator. vs. 11
 - a) They acknowledge His worth, "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power".
 - b) They give the reason, "For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."
 - * He alone is the Eternal and sovereign Lord and Creator of all things and people! Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15-16; Heb.1:3